Penn State Collegian

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News Editor this issue ..... W. L PRATT

THE POINT SYSTEM

There is a question of undergraduate interest at Penn State that has been discussed to no avail for many years. Time after time it has been treated to neglect after its first sensational announcement had lost its brilliance The question, which has become an issue, to which reference is made is the one involving a workable system to be employed in connection with the proper regulation of student participation in non-curriculum activities

Two years ago, work was started on collecting data from other institutions where a point system effecting this needed regulation was being used to advantage .The committee from Student Council appointed to the task labored long and faithfully, and tangible results were in view. Then came the end of the college term and the information was lost.

At an early meeting of the Council last year, a committee was appointed to begin again the work of accumulating all the "dope" possible The committee submitted a gratifying report. Authentic information had been gathered from numerous colleges and universities; responsible men connected with various student governments had written descriptions of the different systems as they were in vogue at their institutions; opinions had been gathered from all sections of the country The work had been well done, and so far, so good

But other questions, considered more important, arose to claim the attention of Student Council. The point system was relegated to the background And one more college term came to a close without any definite action being taken.

Although umerous inquiries have been made this year concerning the fate of the proposed system of activities control, little enthusiasm has been evidenced on the part of undergraduate leaders Student Council has taken no definite steps during the first semester toward the advancement of the idea. It is not expected that this governing body will appoint a committee immediately to draft a system that would be well adapted to Penn State, and which would include all commendable features of other systems without absorbing their undesirable characteristics Such action would be folly in view of the fact that there are far more important issues to be considered at the present time But it is expected that in the course of the second semester, and before the end of the term, some dependable workers will be asked to draw up a point system for Penn State.

Regulation of some sort becomes more necessary with each succeeding year. And it is felt that a workable system can be devised If such is the general opinion, as a careful and thorough investigation seems to indicate, then let the issue receive the attention it deserves

SIGNS AND SIGN-BOARDS

It has been brought to the attention of students and undergraduate organizations on several occasions that illicit advertising on sign-boards and indiscriminate plastering of trees and walls is undesirable and, indeed, forbidden It is unfortunate, in this connection, that those individuals responsible for the maintenance of a respectable looking campus have not experienced a whole-hearted observance of this warning

Sign-boards are intended, primarily, for all undergraduate advertising and announcements of a legal character But they are not intended for a brazen display of suggestive placards of a questionable and, perhaps, insidious nature Neither are trees and sides of buildings the proper places for advertising of any kind

It is simply a matter of common sense and cooperation in an effort to keep Penn State's campus as respectable and beautiful as possible Every college undergraduate can discriminate between advertising that is proper and that which is improper. And only a blind man would mistake a tree or the side of a building for a sign-board

INTERCOLLEGIATE DEBATING

Intercollegiate debating, attracting the attention of such a limited number of college students, was the subject of considerable discussion at a recent conference on undergraduate activities. Ways and means were suggested for securing a more representative and enthusiastic group of supporters among the students for whose benefit the debate was primarily intended And the situations presented brought clearly to mind a decidedly similar state of disinterestedness in this form of collegiate endeavor at Penn State

Debating at this institution is distinctly a student activity that is carried on, from year to year, by the undergraduates with little aid from the faculty A small group of students apply themselves to the study of national and worldwide problems for the good which the college and they themselves might derive. In the past five years, the debating squad has investigated and presented arguments involving a diversity of interests But the benefits accruing to the undergraduates from a forceful presentation and logical discussion of such problems may be considered negligible. For, as a rule, it is a pitifully small audience that greets the debaters upon their appearance in the Auditorium for an intercollegiate discussion.

The world today needs men and women who can think clearly and who can present their conclusions forcefully. The country needs men and women who are interested in questions of national and international importance An hour spent in listening to a debate is not wasted but is a good investment which might yield excellent dividends some day

But, aside from the benefits that may be derived from listening to discussions of this nature, it must be admitted that debating, as it exists today, is a student activity. And, as such, it merits the backing and support of the undergraduates if for no other reason. Freshmen should be made to attend these intercollegiate contests, even as their presence is required at athletic encounters.

Debating is an institution at Penn State It must be supported by undergraduate interest. And the way to secure this interest is open to the upperclassmen. It may be effected by absolute insistence upon the attendance of freshmen at these discussions The awakening of interest may be followed by the forming of habit and the problem of attendance at intercollegiate debating contests may be solved.

Thoughts of Others

(PENN STATE ALUMNI NEWS)

Of late the College has been coming out with editorials on the increasing lack of observance by the student body of college customs, lack of interest in this, that and the other thing—all pointing to a decrease in Penn State spirit as most of us know it The editorials appear to express the thought of many and we are inclined to agree from our own observation. One logical but possibly serious obstacle to improvement is that some of the upper classmen question whether the student body will support them if they should suggest remedial measures that would not coincide with what they believe to be the ideas of the College administration If true this is unfortunate, and betokens a generally deplorable attitude on the part of the students to their own affairs Yet the opening of the discussion is excellent for it shows a recognition of something wrong and it will lead to betterment The diagnosis partly is that the students are not getting together for group action sufficiently often, with great enough purpose or in large enough numbers to have as thorough understanding of each other as they used to have But it is certain that matters have reached the stage where 'something should be done about it' and the longer they drift the more difficult the solution will be Although the highest motives were in mind, some of the most important factors in the maintenance of the student spirit have been eliminated in recent years—factors more important with increasing numbers They have been eliminated with provision of no substitutes or only those of the spineless type This has led to greater lack of any interest in anything remotely suggesting personal inconvenience Furthermore with only routine matters to look out for, not always the strongest men have been elected to Student Council and the latter has deteriorated in ability and power Talk of getting to the "university stage" which requires "larger clothes" and the putting aside of the "toys" does not mean that the customs and traditions which have been built up through the years should now all "go by the board" If necessary they can be modified but it is not essential to pull them all up by the roots Penn State grew to her present size with the old traditions and we wager turned out just as fine students as are turned out today. We fail to see where since we are admitted to be a university in fact" and sometime will be in name, very different actions and attitude on the part of the students are necessary Nor do we see that doing something in another institution is any reason for doing it at Penn State For Penn State is Penn State and stands unique among educational institutions The things that have made Penn State unique are the things instituted by those who are Alumni today They were men, freeborn and respectfully free in the conduct of their personal affairs with all faculties and their freedom and adoption of responsibilities gave them invaluable training and poise In any event, we cannot stand by without earnestly urging that steps be taken to recover the spirit and traditions that appear to be lost For example the old custom of class scraps may not have been the best thing in all ways, yet nothing better to date has been provided We believe therefore that the old class scraps should be revived preferably the Cider Scrap Push Ball Scrap and Flag Scrap, with regulations to take care of the larger numbers It is a fact that no functions yet devised have been able to supplant these in the cohesive effects resulting to the classes—the unifying and sticking together so that only such a physical, jostling conflict of the entire classes can give The white-collar-job-hunting, soft-hand, shirk type of man decried so strongly, comes from the lack of the rough and readiness of the earlier days, and it should be recognized that some rough training helps rather than hurts, because man has changed Fate usually has in 3,000 years and he usually has to do a lot of fighting after he gets out of College and into business There was spice to the old scraps and besides giving student government and upper classmen something to regulate, they inspired the respect for class seniority that is essential and peculiar to a College It might well be realized that when these things are done away with the institution of higher learning increases its tendency towards a mechanical educational mill and becomes a place where a lot of individuals are going to classes We don't believe in property destruction, rowdyism and promiscuous hazing, but we do believe in regulated class scraps and running races We hope the students on their own initiative will hustle and get things back as soon as possible on a sounder basis than they are today

NINETEEN STUDENTS ARE EXEMPT FROM CUSTOMS

Following is a list of students who were exempt from freshman customs beginning Thursday, January third

E R Chiles W Conway J Dombrowski F A Kerkam, M G Lowman, N L McNickle R G Oldfield, H A. Lates on E Pardee, D Paxton, H Swisher, P B Trout, C G VanDine, L T William, J H Wills R M Wolf

The following men will be exempt from freshman customs at the beginning of the second semester

E L Barber, J B Campbell, S W Geer

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

DEBATERS PREPARE FOR TWO MEETS IN MARCH

The Penn State debating team will meet the team from the University of Syracuse on neutral ground in Lock Haven, March fourteenth. On the twenty-seventh of the same month, they will be pitted against the aggregation from Montana Wesleyan, probably in the Court House at Bellefonte

The question of debate for both of these meets will be 'Resolved that the United States should enter the Permanent Court of International Justice on the basis of the Hughes Reservation" It is expected to charge admission in Bellefonte, as a crowd is expected due to the political aspect of the question

Many new men have reported to try for the team, and this promising material should greatly strengthen the debaters for their western trip during Easter vacation There are debates which allow only twenty-four hours of preparation scheduled for Ohio State University and Northwestern University during the trip

FORMER BOTANY STUDENT HOLDS POSITION IN WEST

Word has recently been received from the University of Colorado that Paul Shope '21 is a member of the faculty of that school Professor F D Kern of the Penn State Botany Department received a letter from the head of the Botany Department of the University of Colorado commending Mr Shope on his splendid work Mr Shope was leader of the Penn State Mandolin Club last year and was well known on the Campus

FACULTY MEMBERS TO GO TO FARM PRODUCTS SHOW

Penn State will have about twenty-five members of the faculty of the School of Agriculture at the eighth annual state farm products show to be held in Harrisburg, January twenty-second to twenty-fifth These men will give talks on various phases of agriculture

The show is under the direction of the State Horticultural association and is being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the organization Penn State will take part in the program in another manner Both the Agricultural Extension department and the Entomology Department have prepared exhibits for the show

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THURS and FRIDAY
OWEN MOORE
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Mack Sennett Comedy
"It Bad The Sailor"

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The Penn State Collegian
As an advertising medium
It hardly seems possible, but it's a fact that students spend between two and three million of dollars in State College between September and June of each year
That means that every year the purchasing power of the borough is increased by two or three million dollars Of course a large part of this money is spent for board and room, but a good-sized portion is also expended for necessities of school life.
"THE PENN STATE COLLEGIAN" is a school newspaper and caters to the students It's a logical conclusion, therefore that the best way to reach the students is through their own newspaper
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